THE

MINUTES OF THE SYNOD

OF THE

Presbyterian Church of Canada,

AT ITS SESSIONS AT HAMILTON,

JUNE 8—14, 1853.

PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE SYNOD.

TORONTO:
PRINTED BY JAMES CLELAND, YONGE STREET.
1853.

Officers of Synod--1853-54.

Rev. ALEXANDER GALE, A. M., *Moderator.*
Rev. WILLIAM REID, A. M., *Clerk of Synod.*
Rev. ALEXANDER GALE, A. M., Mount Albion Post Office, *Agent of Widow's Fund Scheme, and Superintendent of Home Missions.*
Rev. W. REID, A. M., Toronto, *Editor of Record, and Agent for other Schemes of the Church.*
S. SPREULL, Esq., *Treasurer of Bursary Fund, Knox's College.*
JOHN REDPATH, Esq., Montreal, *Treasurer for Foreign and Jewish Missions.*
Rev. A. GALE, Rev. R. URE, } *Joint Conveners of Home Mission Committee.*
Rev. M. WILLIS, D. D., *Convener of College Committee.*
JOHN FISHER, Esq, *Convener of Widows' Fund Committee.*
Rev. R. F. BURNS, *Convener of Committee on Sabbath Observance.*
Rev. W. GREGG, A. M., *Convener of Committee on Sabbath Schools.*
Rev. R. BURNS, D. D., *Convener of Committee on Clergy Reserves.*
Rev. W. REID, *Convener of Committee on Intemperance.*
Rev. M. WILLIS, D. D., *Convener of Committee on Slavery.*
Rev. R. URE, *Convener of Agency and Record Committee.*

MEETING OF SYNOD.

FIRST DIET.

At Hamilton, and within Knox's Church there, the Eighth day of June, One thousand eight hundred and fifty-three, the which day the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada met, according to appointment, and after Sermon by the Rev. Thos. Wightman, Moderator for the past year, from Hebrews xiii. 1, "Let brotherly love continue," was constituted.

The Synod Roll was made up and called, and the names of those present were marked as follows:—

[*The names of Members who were present at any of the Sessions, are marked with an asterisk.*]

PRESBYTERY OF COBOURG.

MINISTERS.	ELDERS.	CONGREGATIONS.
*James Douglass.....	Robert Seaton	Cavan.
*Donald McLeod.....	*Chas H. Morgan	Cobourg.
*John M. Roger.....	*Thomas Casement.....	Peterboro', &c.
*John W. Smith.....	*Donald McRae.....	Grafton and Colborne.
*William J. McKenzie....	James Mason.....	Baltimore & Coldsprings.
Francis Andrews.....	*Thomas Davidson	Otonabee.
John Smith.....	.....	Darlington.
David M. McAleese.... .	Kenneth Kempt.....	Norwood and Dummer.
*Robert Boag.....	*George McWilliams....	Cartwright and Manvers.
		Percy and Alnwick.
		Murray and Trenton.

John W. Smith, Grafton, *Presbytery Clerk.*

PRESBYTERY OF KINGSTON.

*Henry Gordon.....	.....	Gananoque.
*James Rogers.....	.....	Demorestville.
*William Reid, A. M.....	Samuel Anderson.....	Picton.
William Gregg, A. M....	*R. Holden, M. D.....	Belleville.
*Robert F. Burns.....	*Robert Matthews.....	Kingston, Chalmers' Ch.
*James W. Chesnut.....	.....	Madoc.
	*James McLachlan.....	Kingston, Brock Street.
		Tyendinaga and Huntingdon.
		Ballynahinch and Storrington.

William Gregg, Belleville, *Presbytery Clerk.*

PRESBYTERY OF BROCKVILLE.

MINISTERS.	ELDERS.	CONGREGATIONS.
William Smart.....	.....	Yonge.
Robert Boyd.....	.....	Prescott.
James Geggie.....	.....	Spencerville.
*John McMurray.....	*James Breakenridge.....	Brockville.
William J. McDowall....	.....	South Gower.

JAMES GEGGIE, Spencerville, *Presbytery Clerk.*

PRESBYTERY OF PERTH.

William Lochead.....	Thos. Duncan.....	Osgoode and Gloucester.
*S. C. Fraser.....	Donald Robertson.....	McNab and Horton.
*Thomas Wardrope.....	*George Hay.....	Bytown.
Andrew Melville.....	Andrew Irving.....	Pembroke.
John Corbett.....	James Pritchard.....	Wakefield.
Peter Gray.....	Duncan Cram.....	Beckwith.
*James B. Duncan.....	Robert Davidson.....	Perth.
John Gourlay.....	Robert Kennedy.....	Goulburn and Nepean.
*James Smith	John Graham.....	Ramsay.

SIMON C. FRASER, *Presbytery Clerk.*

PRESBYTERY OF MONTREAL.

William McAlister.....	.....	Metis.
David Black.....	.....	St. Therese de Blainville.
Thomas Henry.....	John Maquet.....	Lachute.
*David Inglis.....	*James Court.....	Montreal, St. Gabriel St.
Daniel Gordon, (Miss'y).	.....	Lingwick.
*Robert C. Swinton.....	*James Dryden.....	St. Louis de Gonzague and North Georgetown
*J. C. Quin.....		Cornwall and Osnabruck.
William Troup.....	.....	English River.
*Donald Fraser, A. M....	*John Redpath.....	Montreal, Coté Street.
William Scott.....	.....	St. Eustache and Grande Freniere.
*William Brown Clark....	*James Gibb,.....	Chalmers' Ch., Quebec.
		Lochiel.
		Vankleekhill.
		Indian Lands & Kenyon.
		Martintown & Williamstown.
		Lancaster and Dalhousie.
		Laguerre and Dundee.
		Durham.
		Chateauguay Basin.
		Henryville.
		Dunham and Farnham.
		Melbourne.
		Winslow.
		Leeds and St. Sylvester.
		Inverness.
		Rawdon.
		Portneuf.

D. FRASER, A. M., *Presbytery Clerk.*

PRESBYTERY OF LONDON.

MINISTERS.	ELDERS.	CONGREGATIONS.
*Donald McKenzie	*Donald Campbell	Zorra.
*Daniel Allan.....	Samuel Rutherford	North Easthope.
*Thomas McPherson	*Matthew Neilson.....	Stratford.
*William Graham.....	Andrew McAa.....	Egmondville.
*Robert Wallace.....	.....	Ingersoll.
John Fraser	.....	St. Thomas.
*William Sutherland.....	*Duncan Campbell	Ekfrid and Mosa.
*Angus McColl.....	*D. McLellan	Chatham.
*Lachlan McPherson	William Whyte.....	Williams.
*William S. Ball.....	*Andrew Smith.....	Woodstock.
*John Scott	*William Clark.....	London.
*William King	.....	Buxton.
*John Ross	*Robert Carnochan.....	Brucefield.
*Duncan McDiarmid	Robert McDonald.....	Woodstock.
*William McLaren.....	*George Duncan	Amherstburgh.
*Andrew Tolmie.....	.....	Blandford.
	*Archibald Young.....	Sarnia.

JOHN SCOTT, *Presbytery Clerk.*

PRESBYTERY OF HAMILTON.

*Alexander Gale.....		
*Robert Lindsay	.....	Ayr.
*George Cheyne	*George J. Young.....	Saltfleet and Binbrook.
Mark Y. Stark	*Thomas Mair.....	Dundas and Ancaster.
*John Bayne	*Thomas Young	Galt.
*George Smellie	*A. D. Ferrier.....	Fergus.
*William Meldrum.....	Alexander McKenzie ...	Puslinch.
*Alexander McLean.....	*David Agnew.....	Wellington Square.
*John McKinnon	*Hugh McDiarmid	Owen Sound.
*George P. Young	*James Stewart.....	Hamilton.
*Andrew Wilson.....	.....	Port Dover and Simcoe.
*John Alexander.....	*Peter Christie	Niagara.
*Duncan McRuar	*William McMillan	Blenheim and Paris.
William Porterfield.....	*Salmon Minor.....	Dunnville.
		Guelph.
		Caledonia, &c.
		Saugeen.
		Woolwich and Berlin.
		New Aberdeen & Doon.
		Walpole, Jarvis, &c.
		Thorold & Port Robinson.
		Nassagaweya.

G. P. YOUNG, *Presbytery Clerk, pro tem.*

N. B.—Rev. Daniel Eastman and Rev. J. G. MacGregor, are Ministers without charge residing within the bounds of the Presbytery.

PRESBYTERY OF TORONTO.

MINISTERS.	ELDERS.	CONGREGATIONS.
*Robert Burns, D. D.....	*John McMurrich.....	Toronto, Knox's Church.
*Michael Willis, D. D. Professor of Divinity....	.....	
*James Harris	.....	
*James Finlay.....	*William Heron.....	Whitby.
*Duncan McMillan.....	*Jackson Potter.....	Caledon and Erin.
*Thomas Lowry	*D. G. McKay.....	West Gwillimbury.
*Robert Irvine.....	*James Shaw.....	Toronto, 2nd Congreg.
*A. T. Holmes	*Donald Elder	Chinguacousy.
*Thomas Wightman.....	John Hogg.....	York Mills.
*John McLauchlan.....	*Andrew Laidlaw.....	Acton and Boston.
*James Boyd	*John Bruce.....	Markham.
*James Nesbit.....	*Robert Balmer.....	Oakville & Dundas street.
*Robert Ure.....	*Ephraim Steen.....	Streetsville.
*John Mitchell.....	.....	Brock and Reach.
*John Gray	*Thomas Dallas.....	Oro and Orillia.
*Joseph Alexander, A. M.	*Thomas Henning.....	Union and Norval.
*James Adams.....	Robert Irvin.....	King and Tecumseth.
	William Cross.....	Innisfil and Barrie.
	*Andrew Telfer.....	Scarborough.
	*Archibald Gillies.....	Thorah and Eldon.
	David Campbell.....	Vaughan, (Gaelic.)
		Oro, &c., (Gaelic.)
		Nottawasaga, &c.
		Euphrasia.
		Mono and Essa.
		Artemesia.
		Weston and Lambton.

THOS. WIGHTMAN, *Presbytery Clerk.*

The Synod then proceeded to elect their Moderator, when, on motion made and seconded. Rev. Alexander Gale was unanimously chosen Moderator for the year, and took the Chair accordingly.

After an interesting address from the Moderator, the Synod proceeded to business.

In regard to the hours of meeting, the Synod resolved to observe the same order as last year, viz., to meet for business at half-past nine o'clock, A. M., continuing in session until one; to meet again at three P. M., continuing in session until five; and to meet again in the evening at seven.

The Synod granted permission to Presbyteries to meet in Hamilton during the session of Synod, for the transaction of competent business.

The Synod appointed the following Committee on Bills and Overtures, viz.:—The Moderator and Clerk of Synod, Mr. Wightman, Mr. McLeod, Mr. Roger, Mr. J. W. Smith, Mr. Gregg, Mr. R. F. Burns, Mr. McMurray, Mr. S. C. Fraser, Mr. Wardrope, Mr. Duncan, Mr. D. Fraser, Mr. Quin, Mr. Inglis, Mr. McKenzie, Mr. T. McPherson, Mr. Bayne, Mr. Young, Dr. Burns, Mr. Irvine, Mr. Lowry, and Mr. Ure, Ministers; and Mr. McLellan, Mr. Stewart, Mr. Court, Mr. Redpath, Mr. McRae, Mr. Hogg, Mr. Heron, Mr. Mair, Mr. McMillan, and Mr. Matthews, Elders—the Committee to meet this evening at seven o'clock, and afterwards by adjournment.

On motion made and seconded, it was resolved to spend the evening diet in devotional exercises, with reference to the peculiar circumstances of the Church, and the various afflictions recently sent, in the Providence of God.

The Synod adjourned, to meet at half-past seven, P. M., and the diet was closed with prayer.

SECOND DIET.

HAMILTON, WEDNESDAY,
June 8, 1849, 7½ *o'clock P. M.*

The Synod again met and was constituted.

The minutes of last diet were read and approved.

Thereafter, the Synod engaged in devotional exercises according to the resolution adopted at the former diet; Mr. J. W. Smith, Mr. Gordon, and Mr. McLeod conducting the exercises.

On motion made and seconded, it was

Resolved—That as it has pleased Almighty God in his all-wise and adorable providence, since the last meeting of Synod, to remove by death the Rev. Henry Esson, one of the Professors of Knox's College, Mr. John Burns, Agent for the Schemes of the Church and one of the Clerks of Synod, and Mr. John Fraser, of London, an Elder of of this Church, a Committee, consisting of Mr. Bayne, Mr. Roger, and Mr. Gregg, be appointed to prepare a minute expressive of the Synod's feelings under those solemn dispensations.

The Synod adjourned to meet to-morrow at ten o'clock A. M. and the diet was closed with the benediction.

THIRD DIET.

HAMILTON, THURSDAY,
June 9, 1849, 10 *o'clock, A. M.*

The Synod again met and was constituted.

The Roll was called, and the names of members present were marked.

The Committee on Bills and Overtures gave in a report and transmitted various papers. The Synod received the report.

The Synod appointed the following Finance Committee, instructing them to report on the state of all the funds of the Church for the past year, viz.,—Mr. Smellie, Mr. Gregg, Mr. A. D. Ferrier, Mr. Court, Mr. Stewart, Mr. McMurrich, and M. Morgan—Mr. Ferrier, Convener.

The Synod appointed the following Committee for examining and reporting on the Statistical Returns, viz. :—Mr. Cheyne, Convener, Mr. Wardrope, Mr. Simon C. Fraser, Mr. Redpath, and Mr. Hay.

The Synod appointed the following Committee, to wit,—Mr. Wightman, (Convener,) Mr. Bayne, Mr. McLeod, Mr. J. W. Smith, Ministers; and Mr. Shaw and Mr. McMillan, Elders,—to revise the Records of the Synod, and report.

The Synod appointed the following Committees, to revise the Records of Presbyteries, to wit:—

For the Record of the Presbytery of Cobourg—Mr. Lowry, Mr. Rogers, Mr. Finlay, Ministers; and Mr. McLachlan, Elder.

For the Record of the Presbytery of Kingston—Mr. J. M. Roger, Mr. Scott, and Mr. Inglis, Ministers; and Mr. McRae, Elder.

For the Record of the Presbytery of Brockville—Mr. Gregg, Mr. Quin, and Mr. John Gray, Ministers; and Mr. Heron, Elder.

For the Record of the Presbytery of Perth—Mr. Ure, Mr. McLean, and Mr. Nisbet, Ministers; and Mr. Dallas, Elder.

For the Record of the Presbytery of Montreal—Mr. R. F. Burns, Mr. Thomas McPherson, and Mr. John Mitchell, Ministers; and Mr. Matthews, Elder.

For the Record of the Presbytery of London—Mr. Young, Mr. Duncan, and Mr. Irvine, Ministers; and Mr. Mair, Elder.

For the Record of the Presbytery of Hamilton—Mr. D. Fraser, Mr. King, and Mr. Ball, Ministers; and Mr. Smith, Elder.

For the Record of the Presbytery of Toronto—Mr. D. Mackenzie, McMurray, and McRuar, Ministers; and Mr. Stewart, Elder.

The first-named member of each Committee to be Convener.

The Synod then took up a reference from the Presbytery of Toronto, in regard to a memorial from the Congregation of Knox's Church, Toronto, relating to certain evidence given by Dr. Willis before the Police Court in Toronto, affecting the character of their Pastor, Dr. Burns. Various papers connected with the reference having been read, the Synod agreed to sustain the reference in the special circumstances of the case, and refer it to a Committee, to consider the whole matter, confer with the individuals interested if they shall see cause, and report at a future diet; the Committee to consist of—Mr. Bayne, (Convener,) Mr. Young, Mr. Gregg, Mr. Roger, Mr. D. McKenzie, Mr. Duncan, Mr. Scott, Mr. McMurray, and Mr. Inglis, Ministers; and Mr. Redpath, Mr. Court, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Stewart, Mr. Hay, Mr. Clark, Mr. Young, Mr. Matthews, and Mr. Breakenridge, Elders.

The Synod adjourned, to meet at three o'clock P. M.; and the diet was closed with prayer.

FOURTH DIET.

HAMILTON, THURSDAY,
June 9, 1853, 3 *o'clock, P. M.*

The Synod again met and was constituted.

The minutes of last sederunt were read and sustained.

Mr. D. Fraser introduced Rev. W. B. Clarke, from Quebec, and moved that he be requested to sit as a member of Synod. The motion was seconded by Dr. Willis, and unanimously agreed to by the Synod.

The Synod then called for the report of the College Committee, which was given in and read, by Dr. Willis, Convener. On motion made and seconded, the Synod sustained the report, and appointed a Committee to consider the various matters embraced in the report, and especially the vacancy occasioned by the death of Pro-

fessor Esson, and report at a future diet; the Committee to consist of the Moderator, Mr. Bayne, Dr. Willis, Mr. Young, Dr. Burns, Mr. Ure, Mr. Irvine, Mr. Lowry, Mr. Roger, Mr. Gregg, Mr. Clark, Mr. McLeod, Mr. D. Fraser, Mr. McMurray, Mr. Wardrope, and Mr. Thomas McPherson, Ministers; and Mr. McMurrich, Mr. Redpath, Mr. Ferrier, Mr. A. Smith, Mr. Shaw, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Gibb, Mr. Court, and Mr. Clark, Elders—Mr. Young, Convener.

At the request of certain members of the Presbytery of Brockville, Mr. S. C. Fraser was appointed to act as an Assessor to that Presbytery, at any meeting that may be held during the present session of Synod.

The Synod adjourned, to meet at seven o'clock, P.M., and the diet was closed with prayer.

FIFTH DIET.

HAMILTON, THURSDAY,
June 9, 1853, 7 *o'clock, P.M.*

The Synod again met, and was constituted.

The minutes of last diet were read and approved.

On motion made and seconded, it was agreed to tender to Mr. Wightman, Moderator for the past year, the thanks of the Synod for his excellent sermon at the opening of the Synod.

The Synod then called for the Report of the Committee on Sabbath Schools, which was given in and read by Mr. Gregg, Convener of the Committee.

On motion made and seconded, it was

Resolved—That the Report be adopted and printed in the *Record*, and that Presbyteries be instructed to co-operate with the sessions and congregations under their care in carrying out the important suggestions embraced in the Report; farther, that the Synod re-appoint the Committee, as they now do, with the addition of Mr. Lowry, Mr. John Gray, Mr. Alexander, Mr. Nisbet, Mr. W. J. McKenzie, instructing them to direct their attention to the same important subject, to give, through the medium of the *Record*, such additional suggestions as may tend to promote the efficiency of these important institutions, and especially to prepare a series of lessons for the use of Sabbath Schools throughout the bounds of the Church.

The Synod then called for the Report of the Committee on the subject of Intemperance. The Report was given in and read by Mr. Reid, Convener of the Committee, embodying the following recommendations, viz:—

1. That the Synod do again petition the Legislature at its next session, to pass a law prohibiting the importation, manufacture, and the sale of intoxicating drinks as a beverage.

2. That the attention of Kirk Sessions be directed to the subject, and that the Synod urge them to greater fidelity in dealing with those who, by intemperate or tippling habits, bring a reproach on the Church, and on the cause of Christ.

3. That the Synod recommend ministers to preach, from time to time, on the subject of intemperance, solemnly warning their people of the danger resulting from the habitual use of intoxicating drinks.

4. That the Synod earnestly and affectionately intreat all the ministers, office-bearers, and members of the Church to pursue such a course, in regard to the use of intoxicating drinks, as shall bear the most decided practical testimony against the sin of intemperance, remove temptation from themselves, and free them from the serious responsibility of countenancing the use of intoxicating drinks by others.

On motion made and seconded, it was

Resolved—That the Synod sustain the Report, adopt the recommendations contained in it, and re-appoint the Committee, instructing them to employ all competent measures in general to abolish the great evil of intemperance, and for this purpose, especially, to facilitate the enactment of a prohibitory law.

The Synod adjourned, to meet to-morrow at half-past nine o'clock, and the diet was closed with prayer.

SIXTH DIET.

HAMILTON, FRIDAY,
June 10, 1853, 9½ *o'clock, A.M.*

The Synod again met and was constituted.

After the usual devotional exercises, the minutes of last diet were read and sustained.

The Committee on Bills and Overtures gave in a Report, and the same was sustained by the Synod.

Application was made to the Synod by the Presbytery of London, for leave to take on public probationary trials, Mr.

Wm. Blain, student of Divinity. Extracts from the records of the Presbytery of London, and also certificates from the Professor of Divinity in favour of Mr. Blain, were read. The receipt of circular letters, according to the law of the Church, was acknowledged by Presbyteries. The Synod granted leave to the Presbytery of London to take Mr. Blain on trials for license.

On a similar application, the Synod granted leave to the Presbytery of Hamilton to take on trials for license, Mr. James Black, student of Divinity.

The Synod also granted leave to the Presbytery of Toronto to take on trials for license, Mr. John Laing, Mr. Samuel Kedey, Mr. Henry McMeekin, and Mr. William McKay, students of Theology.

The Synod, on application from the Presbytery of Cobourg, granted leave to take on trials for license, Mr James Tait, student of Divinity.

The Synod, on application, granted leave to the Presbytery of Brockville, to take on trials for license, Mr. Archibald Crawford, student of Divinity.

The Synod, on application from the Presbytery of Perth, granted leave to take on trials for license, Mr. David Wardrope, student of Divinity.

The Synod, on application from the Presbytery of Montreal, granted leave to take on trials for license, Mr. Nicol Nicolson, student of Divinity.

The Synod then called for the Report of the Committee appointed to compile a Book of Discipline, for the guidance of the office-bearers and members of the Church. An interim report was given by Dr. Willis.

After lengthened deliberation, the Synod, on motion made and seconded

Resolved—That the Committee be re-appointed, with the addition of Messrs. Irvine and Lowry, and that they be instructed to give instant attention to the matter, and report progress to the ensuing Commission.

The Committee now consist of Dr. Willis, Mr. Smellie, Mr. Irvine, and Mr. Lowry. Dr. Willis and Mr. Smellie, Joint Conveners.

The Synod thereafter took up an application from the Presbytery of Montreal, in regard to the reponement of Mr. James McConechy, in the ministry of the Gospel. Mr. Inglis and Mr. Swinton were heard in regard to the application. After lengthened conference the farther consideration of this case was deferred to a future diet.

The Synod adjourned, to meet at three o'clock, P.M., and the diet was closed with prayer.

SEVENTH DIET.

HAMILTON, FRIDAY,
June 10, 1853, 3 *o'clock, P.M.*

The Synod again met, and was constituted.

The minutes of last diet were read and sustained.

The Synod resumed consideration of the case of Mr. McConechy

On motion made and seconded, it was

Resolved—That the Presbytery of Montreal be instructed, as they hereby are, to prepare a succint narrative of this case from its commencement, to be brought before the Court at a future diet.

Thereafter, the Synod took up an Overture from certain members of Synod, in regard to the preparation of condensed Presbyterial Reports of all cases of license, ordination, induction, deposition, and death of ministers within the bounds of the several Presbyteries, during each year; said Reports to be appended to the minutes of Synod.

Mr. Gregg was heard in support of the Overture. Whereupon, on motion made and seconded, it was resolved to adopt the Overture, and instruct Presbytery Clerks accordingly.

The Synod then took up an Overture from the Presbytery of London, to the effect that the Synod address to Dr. Duff, of Calcutta, now in Scotland, an earnest invitation to visit Canada, and address the congregations of the Church on the subject of Christian Missions. Various members of the Presbytery of London, were heard in support of the Overture.

On motion made and seconded, it was

Resolved—That in the prospect of a visit being paid to the Churches of the United States, by Dr. Duff, of India, or whether he shall visit the States or not, this Synod do hereby address that distinguished minister and eminently successful missionary, in the language of earnest and affectionate entreaty, that he may be pleased, before he returns to the much loved scene of his evangelistic labours, to pay a visit to this and the other Provinces of British North America, and occupy as many of our pulpits as he may have time and strength to overtake; and the Synod earnestly recommend to their ministers and members, to make collections on all such occasions, on behalf of the missions to India, under the care of the General Assembly of the Free Protesting Church of Scotland; and they appoint the following Ministers and Elders a Committee of Synod to arrange for the suitable reception of Dr. Duff and the carrying out the objects of his visit to this country, to wit: The Moderator, Dr. Burns, Mr. Irvine, Mr. Young, Mr. Webster, Mr. McMurrich. Dr. Burns, Convener.

The Synod then proceeded to consider an Overture from the

Presbytery of Toronto, in regard to the reception of ministers and missionaries from other Churches. The Overture was read, and Dr. Burns was heard in support of it.

The hour of adjournment having come, the farther consideration of the Overture was deferred until another diet.

The Sederunt was closed with prayer.

EIGHTH DIET.

HAMILTON, FRIDAY,
June 10, 1853, 7 *o'clock*, *P.M.*

The Synod again met and was constituted.

The minutes of last diet were read and sustained.

Dr. Burns, in behalf of the Presbytery of Toronto, craved leave to withdraw the Overture in regard to the admission of ministers and missionaries from other Churches. Leave was granted, and the Overture was accordingly withdrawn.

The Synod appointed the following ministers to preach in Knox's Church, on the ensuing Sabbath, to wit: in the morning, Mr. W. B. Clark, Quebec; in the afternoon, Mr. John Ross, London Road; in the evening, Mr. D. Inglis, Montreal.

The Synod called for the Report of the Finance Committee.—The same was given in by Mr. A. D. Ferrier, Convener. On motion made and seconded, it was agreed that the Report be received and sustained.

The Synod called for the Report of the Committee appointed to draw up a note or explanatory clause, with reference to certain passages in the Confession of Faith, bearing on the duty of the civil magistrate. The Report was given in by Mr. Reid, Convener of the Committee, embodying the following minute, recommended to the Synod for adoption, to wit:—

The Synod, in declaring their adherence, as they now again do, to the Confession of Faith, as approved by the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, in the year 1647, hereby declare that they do not understand the passages relating to the duty of the civil magistrate, as teaching or sanctioning an Erastian control of the Church by the civil magistrate or the persecution of individuals for conscience sake; principles which the Synod heartily disclaim as inconsistent with the liberty wherewith Christ hath made his people free—opposed to the spirit and terms of the said Confession, and repudiated by the Church in her purest and best times.

After discussion, it was agreed to send down to Presbyteries the proposed minute, in order that they may maturely consider the same, and report to the Synod at its next meeting, whether they sanction or disapprove of the aforesaid minute.

A letter was read from the General Secretary of the French Canadian Missionary Society, in regard to the lamented death of the late Mr. John Burns, and bearing testimony to his efficient and zealous services, as the principal medium through which the contributions from the congregations of this Church, as appointed by the Synod, were remitted to the Society.

The Committee appointed to consider the reference from the Presbytery of Toronto, presented their report, which was of the following tenor:—

The Committee having conferred with the Presbytery of Toronto and with Drs. Burns and Willis, and ascertained definitely all the facts of the case brought before them in the Reference, viz:

1. What were the words actually used by Dr. Willis in the evidence to which the memorial from Knox's congregation related.

2. What was the meaning Dr. Willis actually wished to express in giving that evidence.

3. Why Dr. Willis delayed so long to explain his meaning, after he found that misapprehension regarding it prevailed.

4. Why his explanation, when given, was so defective, and

5. What had been the action of Dr. Burns which led to the evidence given by Dr. Willis.

(All which particulars will be found fully brought out in the minutes of the mittee herewith given in.)

And having considered what seemed best fitted to do justice to the individual parties concerned, and to purge the Church of the scandal which had been caused by the whole case, agreed to recommend the following deliverance for the adoption of the Synod:—

I. In the first place, the Synod rejoice to find that Dr. Willis distinctly disclaims ever having meant to charge Dr. Burns with wilful falsehood or perjury in the sense of swearing to a known untruth, as appears by the Minutes of Committee.

II. Secondly, while the Synod rejoice that the evidence of Dr. Willis as explained by himself, relieves Dr. Burns from the heavy charge, under which it must have been so painful for him to appear to lie even for a short time, of falsehood and perjury, (in the ordinary sense of the term), they feel constrained to express their deep regret, that Dr. Willis appears to have been not only unfortunate but very unguarded in the selection of the language he employed to express his ideas on a subject so delicate as the character of a brother; and moreover, that without sufficient reason, he delayed to make the explanation which was plainly due both to Dr. Burns and to the cause of religion, after he knew, or had

reason to suspect the misinterpretation which had been put upon his testimony; and still further, that when he did profess to explain, his explanation was not of that frank, distinct, and friendly nature which the circumstances of the case called for.

But further, the Synod in pronouncing this opinion about the action of Dr. Willis, feel called upon to put on record their sense of the imprudence of Dr. Burns in the case which led to the evidence given by Dr. Willis, viz: his bringing an individual before the Police Court on insufficient legal evidence: though they cannot regard this as furnishing an excuse for the conduct of Dr. Willis.

III. Thirdly, The Synod do not feel called upon to enter upon the consideration of the question, how far Dr. Willis's charges against Dr. Burns, as explained by himself, are well or ill founded: inasmuch as they do not charge any particular act of moral delinquency against Dr. Burns, and are such that the satisfactory investigation of them is from the very nature of the case impossible.

IV. Fourthly, The explanations given by Dr. Willis having certainly lessened the breach which the *naked* language of Dr. Willis was fitted to produce, the Synod trust that Dr. Burns and Dr. Willis will be enabled to consider the causes of difference still existing between them, in a Christian spirit, and will endeavour, as far as possible, to come to a mutual good understanding in regard to these.

In conclusion, the Committee looking upon the scandal caused by the occurrences, which have led to this investigation, as fitted to shake the confidence of their people in the College, on the efficiency of which, the prosperity of our Church so much depends, would respectfully recommend to the Synod, to have special regard to this in all their action about the College.

On motion made and seconded, it was resolved to sustain the report, and adopt as the deliverance of Synod in this case, the deliverance embodied in the Report of the Committees.

The Synod then adjourned, to meet to-morrow morning at half-past nine o'clock, and the diet was closed with prayer.

EIGHTH DIET.

HAMILTON, SATURDAY,
June 11, 1853, 9½ *o'clock, A. M.*

The Synod met and was constituted.

After the usual devotional exercises, the minutes of last diet were read and sustained.

The Synod proceeded to take up a reference from the Presbytery of Montreal, in regard to the induction of the Rev. W. B. Clark as Minister of Chalmers' Church, Quebec. The various papers connected with the case were read, and Mr. Inglis was heard in regard to the reference; Mr. Clark and Mr. Gibb were also heard.

After deliberation, it was moved by Mr. Bayne, and seconded, that—

The Synod having considered the Reference from the Presbytery of Montreal, find, that while there was a departure from a strict letter of the laws of the Church relating to the calling of Ministers, in the mode in which Mr. Clark was selected to be Pastor of the Quebec congregation, yet, with reference to the spirit of these laws, and making allowance for the very peculiar circumstances of the case, and referring to the past action of this Church in similiar cases, the selection of Mr. Clark by Mr. Gibb, deputed for that purpose by the Quebec Congregation, was substantially a call, and having been acted upon as such by the Colonial Committee of the Free Church of Scotland and the Presbytery of Dumfries, could not, without injustice to Mr. Clark and injury to the best interests of the Church, be repudiated by this Synod; therefore instruct the Presbytery of Montreal to proceed to the induction of Mr. Clark without delay, taking care to satisfy themselves that the Congregation of Quebec duly authorised, as has been assumed, the act of Mr. Gibb.

It was moved by Dr. Willis, and duly seconded,—

That the Synod having heard parties, and considering that Mr. Clarke has entered on the charge at Quebec under circumstances satisfactorily accounting for a departure from the usual forms, and which preclude the Presbytery in *hoc statu* from retrospectively insisting on such forms, and considering that the Pastor whom the Quebec congregation has succeeded, after many disappointments, in persuading to accept their invitation, had every reason to feel assured, before he resigned his charge in Scotland, that a substantial call from the people of Quebec was laid before him through their commissioner; therefore instruct the Presbytery of Montreal to induct Mr. Clark forthwith, only requiring that before the act of induction, an opportunity be given of appending the signatures of the members of the congregation to a call expressive of adherence to the invitation already sent to Mr. Clark, through Mr. Gibb, as their delegate; the Synod having respect in this to the expediency of avoiding, as far as possible, the establishment of any precedent for overlooking a call, which might be pleaded under circumstances less justifying a departure from usual forms, and also the desirableness of making apparent to all, what already appears to this Synod, from the facts before it, that the induction of Mr. Clark takes place in full accordance with the choice and consent of the congregation.

The Roll was called, and the votes marked, when there voted for the first motion 44, and for the second motion 9.

The first motion was accordingly declared to be carried, and the Synod ordained in terms thereof.

From this decision, Mr. McMurray dissented, in his own name, and in name of any who might adhere to him, for the following reason, viz.,—That it is contrary to the spirit of Presbyterianism, and in opposition to the laws and usages of this Church.

Mr. Thomas McPherson also dissented for reasons to be given in.

The Synod adjourned, to meet on Monday, at eleven o'clock, A. M., and the diet was closed with prayer.

TENTH DIET.

HAMILTON, MONDAY,
June 13, 1853, 11 *o'clock, A. M.*

The Synod met, and was constituted with prayer; Mr. Wightman, Moderator, *pro tem.*

The minutes of last sederunt were read and sustained.

Mr. Thomas McPherson gave in reasons of dissent from the decision of the Synod on Saturday, in regard to the reference from the Presbytery of Montreal. These were read, and ordered to be entered in the record of dissents.

The Synod adjourned, to meet at three, P.M., and the diet was closed with prayer.

ELEVENTH DIET.

HAMILTON, MONDAY,
June 13, 1853, 3 *o'clock, P.M.*

The Synod again met and was constituted.

The minutes of last diet were read and sustained.

On motion made and seconded, it was

Resolved—That the minutes of the proceedings of Committee on the reference from the Presbytery of Toronto, their Report and the deliverance of the Synod, be published in full, and that Messrs. Young, Irvine, Wightman, Henning, and McMurrich, be appointed a Committee to carry out this Resolution.

The Reports of the various Committees appointed to revise the Records of Presbyteries, were called for. The same were given in and sustained, and the several Records ordered to be attested accordingly.

The Committee appointed to revise the Synod Records, gave in a Report, which was sustained, and the Records ordered to be attested accordingly.

On motion made and seconded, it was

Resolved—That, whereas it appears from several of the Presbytery Records that no account has been taken of the examination of Session Records, Presbyteries be enjoined, as they hereby are, for the future to have Session Records annually examined.

The Synod then called for the Report of the Committee on the subject of Slavery. Dr. Willis, Convener of the Committee, gave a verbal Report.

On motion made and seconded, it was resolved to sustain the Report, approve the diligence of Dr. Willis in the matter, and record the thanks of the Synod to him for his able advocacy of the cause of the slave, both here and in the United Kingdom; the Synod farther re-appoint the Committee in terms of the original appointment. The Committee was appointed to consist of Dr. Willis, Convener, Dr. Burns, Mr. Wightman, Mr. Bayne, Mr. Irvine, Mr. Gordon, Mr. Ure, ministers; and Mr. McMurrich, Mr. Heron, Mr. Henning, Mr. Breakenridge, elders.

On motion made by Dr. Willis, and duly seconded, the Synod adopted the following Resolutions on the subject of Slavery:—

1. That re-declaring, in terms of the Synod's resolutions at Kingston, in June, 1851, their belief in the sinful and unscriptural character of the Slaveholding system, this Synod judge it to be their duty to God and to man, to co-operate by all moral methods, in promoting its abolition.

2. That it is deeply to be lamented that professing Christian churches in the neighbouring States, do so generally refrain from bearing a clear and decided testimony against laws, which not only involve an erastian usurpation of absolute power over the conscience of the slave, but deprive him of every characteristic privilege of rational nature, and doom what God originally stamped with his own image, and in many cases, those on whom that image has been re-impressed by the Holy Spirit, and for whom Christ died, to the rank of vendible chattels.

3. That, having regard to the inadequate effect which seems to have been produced on the larger ecclesiastical bodies of the United States, by the respectful remonstrances sent from churches in Britain, and on one occasion from this church in Canada, the Synod resolves, in the spirit of affectionate but faithful testimony, to manifest in every way competent, its determination, not to be a partaker in other men's sins: and therefore enjoins upon all ministers and members of this church to omit no opportunity of respectfully dealing with the consciences of slaveholders,—especially professing Christian slaveholders,—and resolve that while communion in religious ordinances is not to be refused to such as profess and evince by credible evidence that they are sincere in the purpose of taking means to purify their church and land from the sin, at the same time communion should be avoided with ministers and congregations avowing or known to be supporters and defenders of this national iniquity.

4. That the Synod heartily rejoices to recognize those Christian societies and individuals in the American Union, who have perseveringly contended against slavery; and desires to cultivate closer union with such churches in the States as decidedly oppose themselves to this oppression, and to strengthen their hands in every competent or possible way.

5. That a copy of these resolutions be published in at least one Canada and one United States newspaper, and also transmitted to such friends of the Anti-Slavery cause in the neighbouring Republic, as the Committee of Synod having charge of this interest may deem most likely to make these resolutions subservient to the advancement of civil and religious liberty.

Dr. Willis reported diligence in the matter of his Commission from this Synod to the General Assembly of the Irish Presbyterian Church, and also the cordial welcome he had received from that Assembly. The Synod approved of the diligence of Dr. Willis in the matter.

The Synod appointed the following quarterly collections to be made during the year, in all the congregations of this Church, viz:

1. For the French Canadian Missionary Society, on the 3rd Sabbath of July.
2. For the Buxton Mission and Synod Fund, on the 3rd Sabbath of October.
3. For the Foreign Missions of the Free Church of Scotland, on the 3rd Sabbath of January.
4. For the Ministers' Widows' and Orphans' Fund, on the 3rd Sabbath of April.

The Synod renewed the instructions of last year to Presbyteries, to see that all congregations within their bounds give attention to these collections.

The Synod also instructed Presbyteries at an early meeting after the present meeting of Synod, to enquire whether any congregations have neglected the schemes of the Church for the past year, and adopt prompt means for having such neglect remedied, and also to report to the Synod at its next meeting such congregations as continue to neglect the stated collections.

The Synod then called for the Report of the Committee on the Clergy Reserves. The Report was given in by Dr. Burns, Convener. On motion made and seconded,

The Synod sustains the Report of the Committee and re-appoint the same with instructions to watch the action of the Legislature with regard to the appropriation of the Reserves, and to take such steps as they may see fit to secure that these Reserves shall not be appropriated to the endowment of churches, or to any object which would tend to perpetuate the evils which have flowed from their application to Ecclesiastical purposes.

The Committee was re-appointed, as follows: Dr. Burns, Convener; Dr. Willis, Messrs. Gale, Bayne, Wightman, Young and James Boyd, Ministers; Messrs. Redpath, Fisher, McLennan, Heron, McMurrich, Shaw and Clark.

The Synod adjourned, to meet at 7 o'clock, P.M.; and the diet was closed with prayer.

TWELFTH DIET.

HAMILTON, MONDAY,
June 13, 1853, 7 *o'clock, P. M.*

The Synod again met, and was constituted.

The minutes of last diet were read and sustained.

The Committee on the Statistical Returns, gave in a Report, which was read. On motion made and seconded, it was agreed to sustain the Report, and print in the Record such portions of it as may be of interest. The Synod regret to find that a large number of congregations have neglected to send in their statistical returns, and direct Presbyteries to obtain such reports as soon as possible, that they may be forwarded and printed in the *Record*.

The Synod also regret to find that so many congregations have neglected to contribute to the various schemes and objects of the Church; enjoin Presbyteries closely to watch over the financial state of their congregations, and obtain quarterly returns of the contributions for all ecclesiastical purposes made in each congregation; and further, earnestly call the attention of Presbyteries to the instructions already given in regard to contributions to the various schemes of the Church.

The Synod then called for the Report of the Home Mission Committee. The same was given in and read by Mr. Ure, one of the Conveners of the Committee. Dr. Burns also read an interesting Report of the Red River Mission.

On motion made and seconded, it was agreed

That the Synod sustain the Report, and record their thanks to the Conveners of the Committee, for their diligence, and publish through the medium of the *Record*, such portions of the Report as are of public interest, including the Report of the Red River Mission. The Synod earnestly urge on the several Presbyteries to use all diligence in prosecuting the Home Mission work, and to carry out as much as possible the instructions formerly given by the Home Mission Committee, reporting their operations from time to time to the Convener of that Committee; and the Synod further instruct the Home Mission Committee for the ensuing year, to correspond with Presbyteries, if they shall see cause, in order to ascertain their views as to the adoption of means for obtaining a farther supply of missionaries from the churches in Scotland and Ireland.

Mr. King, Missionary at Buxton, presented a special Report in regard to the progress of that Mission; whereupon it was unanimously agreed

That the Synod sustain the Report, and record their deep sense of Mr. King's fidelity in carrying on the Mission at Buxton; and further, urge on Presbyteries the necessity of bringing the claims of this Mission more prominently before the Church, in order that it may be more adequately sustained than it has hitherto been.

The Synod appointed the following members to constitute the Home Mission Committee for the year—namely, the Moderator, Dr. Burns, Dr. Willis, Messrs. Irvine, Lowry, Ure, Young, Bayne, Smellie, D. McKenzie, Scott, Thomas McPherson, Sutherland, John M. Roger, J. W. Smith, McLeod, Gregg, R. F. Burns, Reid, McMurray, Boyd, Duncan, Wardrope, D. Fraser, Quin, Inglis and Clark, Ministers; and Messrs. Clark of London, McLellan, Mair, McMurrich, McRae, Dr. Holden, Messrs. Breakenridge, Hay, Redpath, Henning, Shaw and Morgan, Elders. Messrs. Gale and Ure, joint Conveners.

The Committee appointed to consider the various matters embraced in the Report of the College Committee for the past year, and especially the vacancy occasioned by the death of the late Professor Esson, presented their Report. On motion made and seconded, the same was sustained, and the Synod in terms thereof resolved,

1. That a second Theological Professor be appointed.

2. That a Committee be appointed to make enquiry as to a suitable person to fill the office of second Professor of Theology, and that the Committee be empowered, when they have the prospect of securing the services of one whom they judge suitable, to report the same to the Moderator of Synod, who is instructed to call a *pro re nata* meeting of Synod to make a final decision in the matter. The Committee to consist of Mr. Gale, Convener, Dr. Willis, and Messrs. Lowry, McMurrich and Henning.

On motion made and seconded, the Synod appointed the following Committee—namely, Dr. Burns, and Messrs. Gale, Wightman and Shaw, to draft a minute on the subject of the rights of free discussion, which have been seriously interfered with in Lower Canada by the late outrages in the cities of Quebec and Montreal.

The Synod adjourned, to meet to-morrow at half-past nine, A.M.; and the diet was closed with prayer.

THIRTEENTH DIET.

HAMILTON, TUESDAY,
June 14, 1853, 9 *o'clock, A. M.*

The Synod again met, and was constituted.

After the usual exercises, the minutes of last diet were read and sustained.

There was read an extract minute from the Record of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, appointing Rev. Samuel A. Hamilton, Minister of the Gospel at Ballynure, a deputy to this Synod.

Mr. Hamilton being present, was introduced, and addressed the Synod.

Thereafter it was moved by Dr. Willis, seconded by Mr. Breakenridge, and unanimously resolved,

That the Synod has pleasure in acknowledging the appearance among them of the Rev. Mr. Hamilton, a Deputy from the Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland; and has listened with much gratification to his interesting statements as to the progress of Protestantism and Presbyterianism in that country. The Synod responds in hearty wishes and prayers to all the sympathy in the Missionary objects of this Church expressed on the part of the Church in Ireland; and takes this opportunity of renewing, on the part of this Synod, the expression of its pleasure to receive additional laborers from Ireland, as also from Scotland and England, to occupy the large field, ripe for the harvest, in the wide territory of Canada, and which our efforts, through our own immediate seminary, for the preparation of preachers of the Gospel, are still inadequate fully to overtake.

The Synod returns thanks to Mr. Hamilton, as well as the Church which he represents; and will be happy to look forward to other such occasions of intercommunion between our churches, separated by the wide Atlantic, but united in Christian faith and love, and community of objects and interests.

The Synod resumed consideration of the application from the Presbytery of Montreal, in the matter of Mr. McConechy. The Presbytery of Montreal, in accordance with the instructions of Synod, gave in a statement of the whole proceedings in the Ecclesiastical Courts, with reference to Mr. McConechy.

It was moved by Mr. Cheyne, and duly seconded,

That the Synod, having heard the testimony of the Presbytery of Montreal, as also testimony from other quarters, as to the penitence, usefulness, and acceptability of Mr. McConechy, and the Presbytery having further declared that it would in their belief conduce to the glory of God, and the interest of Christ's cause, that Mr. McConechy should be reponed: therefore grant leave to the Presbytery of Montreal to repone Mr. McConechy in the Ministry of the Gospel, if on consideration of the whole case, they see cause so to do.

It was moved also by Mr. Bayne, and duly seconded,

That the Synod decline to entertain the application of the Presbytery of Montreal for the reponement of Mr. McConechy; instruct the Presbytery to inform Mr. McConechy, that if he desires reponement, he ought to seek it from the Presbytery by which he was deposed; and farther, in the event of Mr. McConechy proceeding to Scotland for this purpose, empower the Presbytery of Montreal to furnish him with such testimonials as they may see fit.

The roll was called and the votes marked, when there voted for the first motion 31, and for the second motion 26, several members declining to vote.

The first motion, viz., that moved by Mr. Cheyne, was accordingly declared to be carried, and the Synod, in terms thereof, granted

leave to the Presbytery of Montreal, to repone Mr. McConechy, if on a review of the whole case, they see cause so to do.

The Synod adjourned, to meet at three o'clock P. M., and the diet was closed with prayer.

FOURTEENTH DIET.

HAMILTON, TUESDAY,
June 14, 1853, 3 *o'clock P. M.*

The Synod again met, and was constituted.

The minutes of last diet were read and sustained.

The Committee on the *Ecclesiastical and Missionary Record* presented a report. The same was given in by Mr. Ure, and read. On motion made and seconded, the Synod sustained the Report, and renewed the instructions of last year to Presbyteries, to adopt means for extending the circulation of the *Record*.

The Synod then called for the report of the Agency Committee. The same was given in by Mr. Ure, and read.

On motion made and seconded, it was

Resolved—That the Report of the Agency Committee be received, and its recommendations adopted; and that in compliance therewith—

1. The Rev. Alexander Gale be appointed—as he hereby is appointed—Agent of the Widows' Fund Scheme, and Superintendent of Home Missions, with a salary of £100 per annum. The seat of Mr. Gale's agency to be at Hamilton.

2. That the Rev. William Reid be appointed—as he hereby is appointed—Agent of the other Schemes of the Church; also Editor of the *Ecclesiastical and Missionary Record*, and sole Clerk of Synod; with a salary of £250 per annum. The seat of this agency to be at Toronto.

3. That the Presbytery of Kingston be instructed to take the necessary steps for dissolving the pastoral relation between Mr. Reid and the Picton congregation; and that he shall thereafter be transferred to the Presbytery of Toronto, and his name be added to the roll of that Presbytery; and that he shall retain his rights in connexion with the Widows' Fund.

4. That the following be appointed as the Agency Committee, and also as the Committee on the *Record*; and that they be instructed, as soon as possible, to define the several duties of Mr. Gale and Mr. Reid—namely, Messrs. Ure (Convener), Bayne, Young, Lowry, Irvine, Shaw, McLellan and McMurrich, and Dr. Burns.

The Synod adjourned, to meet at seven o'clock P. M., and the diet was closed with prayer.

FIFTEENTH DIET.

HAMILTON, TUESDAY,
June 14, 1853, 7 *o'clock P. M.*

The Synod again met, and was constituted.

The minutes of last diet were read and sustained.

The Synod called for the report of the Committee on the Ministers' Widows' and Orphans' Fund. The same was given in by Mr. Fisher, Convener, and read.

On motion made and seconded, it was unanimously agreed to sustain the report, and tender the cordial thanks of the Synod to the Convener and Committee, for their zeal and diligence; and re-appoint the Committee, with the addition of Mr. Irvine, Dr. Holden and Mr. Hay.

Thanks were accordingly given by the Moderator, to the Convener and Committee.

The Synod farther unanimously adopted the following resolutions:—

1. That as many Congregations have failed to contribute to the Widows' Fund, Presbyteries be enjoined to take immediate measures for bringing the claims of this Scheme before congregations, and also for collecting the outstanding subscriptions.

2. That adhering to the 3rd of the Regulations of last year, the Synod cannot admit that the Minister referred to in the report as having demitted his charge and accepted a literary appointment, can be regarded as having any claim on the Fund, beyond the amount he has contributed, together with legal interest.

The Committee on the Widows' Fund is constituted as follows, viz.:—Dr. Burns, Messrs. Gale, Smellie, Scott, R. Boyd, Irvine, D. Fraser, R. F. Burns, Ministers; together with Messrs. Fisher, James Osborne, Buchanan, Elmslie, Walker, McLellan, George Davidson, Blain, Ferrier, McMurrich, James Shaw, Spreull, Morgan, Hon. John McDonald, Mr. C. S. Patterson, Dr. Dickson, Messrs. Hay, Redpath, D. Davidson, and Gibb—Mr. Fisher, Convener.

The Synod called for the Report of the Committee on Sabbath Observance. The same was given in by Mr. R. F. Burns, Convener, and was read, when, on motion made and seconded, it was unanimously agreed to sustain the report, record the thanks of the Synod to the Convener, and re-appoint the Committee, with instructions to continue their efforts to promote the important object of Sabbath Observance.

The Synod farther adopted the recommendations contained in the report, and resolved again to petition the Legislature at its next

session, for an act to abolish all Sabbath labour in connexion with the Post Office Department.

The Committee on Sabbath Observance consists of the following members, viz , Mr. R. F. Burns, (Convener,) Dr. Burns, Dr. Willis, Messrs. Gale, Gordon, Boyd, Gregg, Reid, Lowry, D. Fraser, and J. Gray, Ministers; and Dr. Dickson, Messrs. Redpath, Davidson, Webster, Robertson, Rankin and McMurrich, Elders.

The Synod appointed the College Committee for the year, as follows, viz. :—the Moderator, Messrs. D. McKenzie, Scott, Bayne, Young, Lowry, Ure, McLeod, W. J. McKenzie, Reid, Gregg, Boyd, Geggie, Wardrope, Duncan, Henry, Fraser, and Irvine, Ministers; and Messrs. Mair, McMurrich, Shaw, Jeffrey, Tully, Anderson, Dr. Dickson, Messrs. Breakenridge, Kennedy, Redpath, Gunn, Gibb, and Henning, Elders; together with the Professors of Knox's College, and Messrs. John Shaw, Samuel Spreull, and Alexander McGlashan, of Toronto,—Dr. Willis, Convener.

The Synod then took up the subject of the Revival of Religion, when it was found that no written reports had been given in by Presbyteries, in accordance with the instructions of last Synod, and no Pastoral Address prepared: whereupon, it was unanimously agreed

That Presbyteries be again enjoined to take up this subject, and present written reports at the next meeting of Synod: and further, that the first Wednesday of October be set apart by this Church as a day of humiliation, confession of sin, and prayer for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit: and further, that a Committee, consisting of Messrs. McLeod (Convener), D. Fraser, Gregg, Burns and John Gray, be appointed to issue a circular, through the medium of the *Record*, suggesting particular grounds of humiliation.

The Synod then called for the draft of a minute expressive of the feelings of the Synod, in view of the removal by death of three esteemed office-bearers of this Church, viz., Professor Esson and Mr. John Burns, of Toronto, and Mr. John Fraser, of London. The same was given in and adopted, and ordered to be engrossed in the Synod Record, and the Clerk was ordered to forward a copy to each of the widowed partners of our late respected and beloved brethren.

The Synod, while deeply sensible of the many tokens of the Divine favor, which, as a Church, they have enjoyed, feel especially called upon to acknowledge the hand of God in recent trials; and more particularly in the sudden removal, by death, and within a short period of each other, of three distinguished fellow-laborers, whose gifts and graces eminently fitted them for usefulness; and the loss of whose presence, and labors, and prayers, is felt to be a heavy blow by the Church at large. It seems meet to them, also, that a testimony should be put on record, of the esteem in which those for whose removal from amongst them they mourn, were held while they lived, and of the reverence and affection with which their memories are cherished.

By the death of Professor Esson, our College has suffered the loss of a gifted, accomplished, and devoted teacher, whose singleness of purpose and unwearied

labours, in the discharge of the duties of his office, had commanded the admiration of all who took an interest in that institution.

Endowed with fine natural genius, a most accomplished scholar, a metaphysician and moral philosopher by the natural bent of his mind, and as the fruit of careful study in a favorite field, distinguished by a warmth of affection, and a kindness of manner, which drew to him, instinctively, the hearts of the young, and withal, an enthusiast in the cause of education, Professor Esson possessed many rare qualifications for his important office. With these qualifications, the services which he was enabled to render in the preliminary training of our students, were of high value.

In the classical department, he had few superiors. And, in the philosophical, if in the mere art of laying the stores of his knowledge before the minds of his pupils—an art in which inferior men often excel the more gifted and accomplished—Professor Esson might be thought to be equalled or surpassed by others, few more eminently possessed the power of inspiring his students with enthusiasm in the pursuit of knowledge, of imbuing their minds with the love of truth for its own sake, and of cultivating among them that philosophic spirit which, better than mere knowledge at second hand, makes the student not the repository of the thoughts of his teacher, but his own teacher—stirring him up to think, to examine, and to decide for himself.

Always remarkable for the loftiness of his aims and the unworldly generosity of his disposition, in the latter period of his life—and more especially since the memorable era of the disruption, at which he made a noble stand for the headship of the Redeemer—Professor Esson had come to feel with growing solemnity the paramount importance of the truth which "makes wise unto salvation;" and had learned to look upon philosophy as only in its right place when employed as the handmaid of religion. And in view both of the spirit and the abundance of his labors, his loss may well be lamented, as that of one whose whole energies were consecrated to the work of training up a race of ministers in our church, who should not only be wise with the wisdom of this world, but wise in winning souls to Christ.

In Mr. John Burns, Agent of the Schemes of the Church, our Church has lost a servant providentially raised up to her at a critical period of her history, singularly qualified for his office, devoted, heart and soul, to his important work, and whose loss it will be indeed difficult to supply.

Possessed of excellent talents and a well cultivated mind, combining rare equanimity and mildness of disposition with tact and firmness, skilful and prudent as a man of business, and, above all, devoted to the duties of his office as a man of God, animated by the lofty motives which the Gospel inspires, and seeking the prosperity of the schemes over which he watched, because he deemed their prosperity identified with the cause of the Redeemer, those who knew him best, feel that the blow which so suddenly struck him down, took from them a friend who was, in not a few respects, a model of what an agent of the Church ought to be.

It is believed that, to some extent at least, his lamented death may have been hastened by the extent and difficulty of his labors; and this consideration is an additional reason why his name should be held by the Church in grateful remembrance.

John Fraser, Esq., of London, an Elder of the congregation in that place, as he occupied a more private sphere than either Professor Esson or Mr. Burns, was less known to the Church at large; but his eminent graces, his distinguished usefulness in the locality in which he resided, and the admiration and esteem in which he was held by his countrymen, and by the friends of Christ generally within the bounds of the Presbytery of London, no less truly invest his sudden death with the character of a public calamity.

With talents, accomplishments and manners, which fitted him for taking a leading place in society as a gentleman, and a man of business, Mr. Fraser united the humility, the warm affections, the spirituality of mind, and the devoted zeal for the glory of God, by which the character of the true disciple of Christ is at once distinguished and adorned. In every undertaking which seemed likely to promote the cause of Christ, Mr. Fraser, with true Catholic spirit, was ready to co-operate; but of our own Church, in particular, he was a discriminating and zealous friend, and to her he was enabled to render services which are deserving of special commemoration.

During several years, in which the Congregation were looking out and waiting in hope for a pastor, Mr. Fraser did the duties of an Evangelist among them with a prudence and singleness of purpose which gained him universal acceptance, and united the congregation around him until the desire of their hearts was obtained.

As might be supposed, from the qualifications ascribed to him, Mr. Fraser excelled in the exposition of Scripture and in prayer; but the secret of his influence was his deep piety—a piety which, nourished in close secret communion with his God, made itself manifest to others in the works of faith and labors of love in which he habitually abounded. And his case may well be held forth to the Elders of our Church as an example of the services which, in this land of spiritual destitution, many of them might be able to render to the cause of Christ.

The loss of these honored individuals is indeed a loud call to humiliation and searching of heart and prayer. May *He* who has applied the rod, sanctify the blow. May *we* be enabled to enquire, in a becoming spirit, why the hand of the Lord is thus stretched out against us, and to learn aright the lessons which he is seeking to convey. And may the fruits of fatherly chastisement, in the holier lives and more devoted labors of Ministers and Elders, and people, make it manifest that the Lord has not cast us off in his anger, but chastened us for our profit, and that we might be made partakers of his holiness.

On the Report of the Committee appointed at a previous diet, the Synod adopted the following minute, with reference to the right of free discussion, and the late riotous proceedings in Quebec and Montreal.

This Synod having heard of the riotous proceedings at Quebec and Montreal, accompained in the latter of these cities with the melancholy deaths of eight innocent and unoffending citizens, cannot but give expression to a feeling of deep concern and righteous indignation.

As citizens and as Christians we prize the blessings of civil and religious freedom, and we look upon these blessings as most seriously imperilled if such proceedings as those now referred to are perpetrated and winked at. That distinguished Italian refugee, whose visit to Quebec and Montreal was the immediate occasion of the painful events referred to, had a right to fair and free discussion, and it does not appear that he went beyond the bounds which that right has prescribed to it; and if he is to be put down by lawless violence, what will the result be, but a breaking up of the very framework of the social system.

Holding as we do that the system of the Papacy, both in principle and in spirit, is hostile to God's glory and men's spiritual interests, we claim a right for ourselves and others to expose the evils of the system, and to plead for the great principles embodied in what is commonly known as the Protestantism of all the Reformed Churches; and we assert the right of every man to vindicate these principles, when in doing so he does not disturb society, nor violate liberty of conscience.

This Synod farther calls upon the Government of the land to take effective measures to protect the rights of all British subjects, and of strangers within our gates so long as they do nothing against law and social order. Yea, this Synod feels itself called on to go a little further, and to press on men in power the duty

of the Legislature of a land to descriminate carefully betwixt those matters of conscience which no public law can reach, and those systems of priestcraft which are based on allegiance to a foreign power, and are in their tendency inimical to the rights of loyal subjects, and the interests of public morals and of the public safety.

While the Synod lifts this solemn protest on the grounds referred to, her members are reminded of their duty of using all the means at their command for lessening the influence of Popery in the Province, and advancing the progress of evangelical truth.

The Synod appointed the following Committee—namely, Dr. Burns, Dr. Willis, Messrs. Irvine, Reid, Wightman, D. Fraser and Clark, Ministers; with Messrs. McMurrich, Shaw, Henning, Redpath, Court and Gibb, Elders, to take steps towards the liquidation of the debt in connexion with Buxton Mission. Mr. Shaw to be Convener of the Committee.

The Synod farther agreed specially to request Mr. King to issue an appeal in regard to this Mission; and to follow it up by visiting as many of the congregations as he may be able to overtake, with the view of bringing Buxton Mission more prominently under the notice of our people.

The Synod appointed the following Ministers and Elders as the Commission of Synod, to hold one ordinary meeting at Toronto, on the second Wednesday of October—namely, the Moderator and Clerk of Synod, Dr. Willis, Dr. Burns, Messrs. McLeod, Roger, J. W. Smith, Gregg, R. F. Burns, Boyd, McMurray, S. C. Fraser, Wardrope, Duncan, D. Fraser, Quin, Inglis, D. McKenzie, Scott, T. McPherson, Irvine, Lowry, Wightman, Ure, Bayne, Cheyne, Smellie and Young, Ministers; and Dr. Holden, Messrs. Morgan, Casement, Matthews, Breakenridge, Hay, R. Davidson, Redpath, Gibb, Clark of London, D. Campbell, Shaw, Henning, McMurrich, McLellan, Stewart and Mair, Elders.

On motion made and seconded, it was unanimously resolved to record the thanks of the Synod to the office bearers and Trustees of Knox's Church, Hamilton, for the comfortable accommodation provided in that Church for the Synod during its Sessions at this time.

On motion made and seconded, it was unanimously resolved to record the thanks of the Synod to the friends in Hamilton, for the hospitality so kindly extended to the Ministers and Elders of the Synod on this occasion.

The business being now concluded, the Moderator announced that the next ordinary meeting of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada would be held in the City of Toronto, and within Knox's Church there, on the second Wednesday of June, 1854, at three o'clock, P.M.

After prayer, and the singing of part of the 122nd Psalm, the Synod was closed with the benediction.

APPENDIX.

MINUTES OF A PRO RE NATA MEETING OF SYNOD, HELD AT KINGSTON, JULY 14, 1853.

At Kingston, the 14th day of July, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-three, the which day the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada met, in consequence of a circular letter from the Moderator, addressed to the members of Synod, the tenor of which follows:—

In accordance with a Resolution of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, at its recent meeting in Hamilton, I hereby call a special meeting of Synod, to take place at Kingston, and within Chalmer's Church there, on Thursday, the 14th day of July next, at 11 o'clock, A.M., for the purpose of making a final decision in the matter of the appointment of a second Professor of Theology in Knox's College; the Committee appointed by the Synod having agreed to recommend the Rev. George P. Young as a suitable person to fill the situation of Second Professor.

(Signed) ALEXANDER GALE, Moderator of Synod.

Hamilton, 29th June, 1853.

The meeting was duly constituted with prayer. Sederunt—Rev. A. Gale, Moderator of Synod; Rev. W. Reid, Clerk of Synod; Dr. Willis; Messrs. D. McLeod, W. Gregg, R. F. Burns, J. W. Chesnut, J. McMurray, Thomas Wardrope, D. Fraser, Thomas McPherson, J. Alexander and D. McRuar, Ministers; and Messrs. McLachlan, Matthews, Stewart, McMillan and Shaw, Elders.

On motion made and seconded, it was unanimously agreed to approve of the conduct of the Moderator in calling the meeting.

The Report of the Committee appointed to look out for a suitable person to fill the situation of Second Professor of Divinity in Knox's College, was given in and read. The Report embodied the following recommendations, with reference to the designation, status and duties of the Professor to be appointed—viz:—

1. That the proposed Professor shall be designated as "Second Professor of Divinity in Knox's College."

2. That in regard to the duties of his Professorship, the management of his classes, and the treatment of the various departments of study assigned to him in the curriculum, his authority shall be, in all respects, co-ordinate with that of the Primarius Professor.

3. That there shall be assigned to the superintendence of the Second Professor of Divinity, the departments of Logic, Mental and Moral Philosophy, and the Evidences of Natural and Revealed Religion.

The Report further specified the various steps that had been adopted by the Committee in the matter; and concluded with unanimously recommending the Rev. George P. Young, of Hamilton, as a suitable person to fill the situation in question.

On motion made and seconded, it was unanimously agreed to receive the Report, and approve the diligence of the Committee in the matter entrusted to them.

A memorial was read from Mr. John Redpath and Mr. James Court, suggesting the postponement, in the meantime, of any appointment of a second Professor.

It was moved by Mr. Wardrope, seconded by Mr. McLeod, and unanimously resolved,

1. That the Synod, in accordance with the recommendation of the Committee, do appoint, as they hereby do, the Rev. George P. Young, Second Professor of Divinity in Knox's College; adopting and sanctioning the recommendations of the Committee in regard to Mr. Young's designation, status and duties in the College; and that, in the meantime, his salary be not less than £300 per annum.

2. That the Synod release Mr. Young, as they hereby do, from his present charge, in order that he may be enabled to give his attention to such arrangements as he may find it necessary to make for the discharge of the important duties now to devolve upon him.

Mr. Webster, who appeared as Commissioner from the Session and Congregation of Knox's Church, Hamilton, addressed the Synod with reference to the feelings and desires of the Congregation in view of the removal of their Pastor.

Whereupon it was moved, seconded, and unanimously

Resolved—That the Synod have heard with pleasure of the disinterested conduct of the Congregation of Knox's Church, Hamilton; and agree to grant them such supply as they may have it in their power to give, and in every competent way to further the views of the Congregation as represented by their Commissioner; and further recommend to the various Presbyteries and Sessions to co-operate, as far as possible, with the Presbytery of Hamilton, and the Session of Knox's Church there, in affording such supply as the vacant Congregation may desire.

Thereafter the meeting was closed with prayer.

INDEX.

	PAGE.
Agency Committee, Report of	24
Bills and Overtures, Committee on	7
Buxton Mission	21, 29
Burns, the late Mr. John, Minute regarding	26
Clark, Rev. W. B., Induction of	16
Clergy Reserves and Rectories, Committee on	20
Collections, Synodical, for the year	20
Commission of Synod	29
Confession of Faith, proposed minute regarding	14
Discipline, Committee on Book of	12
Discussion, Free, Rights of	22, 28
Dissents entered	17, 18
Duff, Dr., of India, Invitation to	13
Esson, the late Professor, minute regarding	26
Finance Committee	8, 14
Fraser, the late John, Esq., of London, minute regarding	26
Gale, Rev. Alexander, appointed Moderator	6
Gale, Rev. Alexander, appointed Agent of Widows' Fund and Superintendent of Home Missions	24
Hamilton, Rev. Samuel A., Deputy from Presbyterian Church in Ireland	23
Home Mission Committee, Report of	21, 22
Intemperance, Report of Committee on	11
Knox's College, Report of Committee on	9, 22
Knox's College, Committee for year appointed	26
McConechy, Mr., case of	12, 13, 23
Professor of Divinity in Knox's College, a second to be appointed	22
Record Committee, Report of	24
Records, Synod and Presbytery, Committees on	8, 18
Records, condensed Presbyterial	13
Revival of Religion	26
Sabbath Observance Committee, Report of	25, 26
Sabbath Schools, Report of Committee on	10
Session Records, to be examined by Presbyteries	19
Slavery, Report of Committee on	19
Statistics, Committee on, Report of	21
Students of Theology to be taken on trials for license	11, 12
Synod, appointment of next meeting of	29
Toronto, Reference from Presbytery of	9, 15
Widows' and Orphans' Fund, Report of Committee on	25
Wightman, Rev. Thomas, receives thanks for Synod Sermon	10

THE

MINUTES OF THE SYNOD

OF THE

Presbyterian Church of Canada,

AT ITS SESSIONS AT TORONTO,

JUNE 14–21, 1854.

PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE SYNOD.

TORONTO:

PRINTED BY JAMES CLELAND, YONGE STREET.

1854.